

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention provides a method for the treatment of heart failure through the use of small peptide complexes and recombinant proteins which function to enhance contractility in failing hearts and  
5 reduce blood pressure in individuals with hypertension by inhibiting the interaction between phospholamban and sarcoplasmic reticulum  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ATPase (SERCA2a) within cardiomyocytes. In addition, a means is provided for the transport of such therapeutic agents into the cytoplasm  
10 and nucleus of cardiomyocytes.